

**Written Testimony of Martin Wangen to the Montana Senate Judiciary Committee on 3 Feb 2015.**

SENATE JUDICIARY

Exhibit No. 3

Date 2/3/15

Bill No. SS 7

Good morning Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. I am Martin Wangen.

First, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to address you and your committee on this issue before you today.

Second, I would like to point out that I am a state employee. However, I am here today representing only my personal positions and have taken leave from my regular duties to be here. The testimony that I offer in no way represents the positions of my department or any part of the Executive Branch.

Third, I would like to point out that I have been a registered voter in Montana since 1987. The first twelve years of that, however, I had to vote absentee as I was serving as a Commissioned Officer in the United States Army on Active Duty in assignments throughout the world. As a member of the United States Armed Forces I attempted to do my part at ensuring the citizens of this country can continue to live in safety with Freedom and Liberty. In fact, my family has a great lineage of contributions, sacrifice, and valor in Military Service. My father fought bravely in World War II. One example of his Valor is when he crossed the Rhine River under fire. His battalion led the attack and his boat was the only boat that made it across the river in his company; the rest were destroyed either in the river or before they could even get into the water. It is this kind of sacrifice by him and indeed his entire generation that provided us with the Freedom and Liberty we enjoy today. I recall News Correspondent Tom Brokaw referring to his generation as the "Greatest Generation of Americans".

I come before you today because I am afraid that their sacrifice and the sacrifices of all preceding generations may be lost if we do not adjust the course of this country. That generation was able to send troops into two major theaters of operations conducting a World War and could count on the remaining citizens of this country to keep it running and functioning at the same time; a truly great tribute to the fortitude of the American people. But when future generations look back at our generation, what will they see? They will see a nation that went from being self-sufficient and proud to one that is dependent upon other countries such as Communist China to be able to sustain itself because our federal government is unable to control its spending. Almost two decades ago, President Ronald Reagan addressed the budget crises facing our nation by saying that our debt was so great that if you stacked \$20 bills on top of each other it would span from the earth to the moon. Now that debit crisis pales in comparison to the one today.

The previous generations gave successive generations freedom, independence and liberty. Our generation is giving future generations an incredible bondage of debit. How can they enjoy liberty when we have forced them to pay for the spoils we want for ourselves? I dare say, that our generation which immediately followed the greatest generation of Americans will be known as the worst generation of Americans if we do not correct this crisis.

The Montana Legislature had provided proven Leadership to this country in its fiscal management. I implore you to take that leadership to a new level by this committee passing this legislation before you and supporting it through the Senate so that we as a State can demonstrate the resolve needed to treat the addiction our federal government has for its spending without regard to its future.

Mr. Chairman, pending questions, that concludes my testimony here today. Thank you again for this opportunity.



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